the Hammer Residences



March 25, 1988

To Whom It May Concern:

Tyler Place is a Supervised Living Services program located in a Minneapolis suburb. It is a townhome with close access to shopping, restaurants, banking, hospitals, parks, movie theatres and many other recreational resources. It is home for three people. Each has their own bedroom, and share the living room, dining room, kitchen, bath and laundry room space, and the responsibility of caring for it to the best of their ability. All three people are developmentally disabled and physically handicapped.

Home services counselors and personal care attendants are at the home on a consistent basis, from the time the three individuals who occupy the hone get hone from work until they leave the next morning, and constantly on weekends and holidays. They assist and train them in all of their tasks and activities (personal, domestic, health, leisure and community). Formal goals are developed and worked on in the natural routine of their day. Health care and therapy is provided to improve and/or maintain health, using consultants from outside agencies in specialized areas, such as physical and occupational areas.

Two of the individuals living at Tyler place are male and the other person is a woman. The youngest of the two men, M.E., became disabled when he was fourteen years of age from a car-bike accident. He received closed brain injury which left him both developmentally disabled and physically handicapped. He is a spastic-quadraplegic, non-verbal, gastrostromy tube fed, has a controlled seizure disorder and has visual problems. M.E. was admitted to a Regional Center directly from the hospital where he resided (approximately 7 years) until the County initiated his move to Tyler Place. Although the family and Regional Center staff did not agree with the decision, feeling if would be traumatic for him, M.E. did move. Since this time his family has stated M.E. appears brighter, more calm and has found his home. His two roommates have similar disabilities and have also spent much of their lives in the Regional Centers, and the 2 years previous to their move to Tyler Place in a nursing home, where life was limited to a maintenance style of care.

At Tyler Place these three individuals are expected to care for themselves and their home to the best of their ability, which was a new concept for them, but has appeared to increase their selfesteem. In addition to the idea of having a new home, becoming involved in the community was another step. The neighbors were found to be friendly but distant. Getting to know each other was done at a very relaxed pace. The reactions from the public were mixed; some very warm and enthusiastic and some intimidating. The attitude of taking one step at a time was formed, with the idea in mind that these three people living at Tyler Place are learning about their community, and their community is learning about them.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger A. Deneen Executive Director

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